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**AUDITED REPORT** FORM X-17A-5 PART III

**FACING PAGE** 

Information Required of Brokers and Dealers Pursuant to Section 17 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 17a-5 Thereunder

	MIM/DD/YY	•	MM/DD/YY
A	REGISTRANT IDENTIFICA	TION	
ME OF BROKER-DEALER:			
Ahston-Clayton Financia	1 Group, LLC	OFFICIAL USE ONLY	
		FIRM ID, NO.	
DDRESS OF PRINCIPAL PLACE OF 409 Rahway Avenue	F BUSINESS: (Do not use P.O. Box !	No.)	(1)
	(No. and Street)		<del></del>
Woodbridge, NJ 0	7095		
(City)	(State)		(Zip Code)
Richard M. Prinzi, Jr.,	ACCOUNTANT IDENTIFICA	·	-6864 Code — Telephone No.)
,			•
DEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTA		is Report*	•
DEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTA	ANT whose opinion is contained in the	is Report*	
DEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTA Prinzi, Richard M. 8403 Seventh Avenue, Br	ANT whose opinion is contained in the	is Report*	Zip Code)
Prinzi, Richard M.  8403 Seventh Avenue, Br  Bires  BECK ONE:  Certified Public Accountant	(Name — if individual, state last, first, middle not ooklyn, NY 11228 (City)	is Report*	Zip Code)
DEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTA Prinzi, Richard M.  8403 Seventh Avenue, Br Wires:  ECK ONE:  Certified Public Accountant  D Public Accountant	(Name — if individual, state last, first, middle not ooklyn, NY 11228 (City)	is Report*  (State)	PROCESSE MAR 1 9 2003

ust be supported by a statement of facts and circumstances relied on as the basis for the exemption. See section 240,17a-5(e)(2).

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Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMR control number.



#### **OATH OR AFFIRMATION**

Harry Clayton			, swear (or affirm) that, to the
of my knowledge and belief ashton-Clayton Fina	the accompanying financial state ancial Group, LLC		
December 31	, xx2002; are true and corre	ct. I further swear (or af	firm) that neither the company
my partner, proprietor, princ stomer, Except as follows:	ipal officer or director has any pr	roprietary interest in any a	count classified soley as that of
•	N/A		
		<u> </u>	Signature
		U) Co o	PROSIAVET
Jane G. C.	(ay tac)		IRE

JANE'S CLAYTON

NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES NOV. 15-1997-2007

report\*\* contains (check all applicable boxes):

- (a) Facing page.
- (b) Statement of Financial Condition.
- (c) Statement of Income (Loss).
- (d) Statement of Changes in Financial Condition.
- (e) Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity or Partners' or Sole Proprietor's Capital.
- (f) Statement of Changes in Liabilities Subordinated to Claims of Creditors.
- (g) Computation of Net Capital
- (h) Computation for Determination of Reserve Requirements Pursuant to Rule 15c3-3.
- (i) Information Relating to the Possession or control Requirements Under Rule 15c3-3.
- (j) A Reconciliation, including appropriate explanation, of the Computation of Net Capital Under Rule 15c3-1 and the Computation for Determination of the Reserve Requirements Under Exhibit A of Rule 15c3-3.
- (k) A Reconciliation between the audited and unaudited Statements of Financial Condition with respect to methods of consolidation.
- (1) An Oath or Affirmation.
- (m) A copy of the SIPC Supplemental Report.
- (n) A report describing any material inadequacies found to exist or found to have existed since the date of the previous audit.

or conditions of confidential treatment of certain portions of this filing, see section 240.17a-5(e)(3).

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# Richard Prinzi, Jr. CPA

Staten Island Office:

**Brooklyn Office:** 

Manhattan Office:

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75 Maiden Lane New York, NY 10038 (212) 402-6864 \*\*By Appointment Only

#### REPORT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

To Ashton Clayton Financial Group, LLC:

I have audited the accompanying balance sheet of Ashton Clayton Financial Group, LLC (a Limited Liability Company) as of December 31, 2002, and the related statements of operations, changes in Members' equity and cash flows for the year ended December 31, 2002 that you are filing pursuant to Rule 17a-5 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Ashton Clayton Financial Group, LLC as of December 31, 2002, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year ended December 31, 2002, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America.

My audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The information contained in the Supplementary Information is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements, but is supplementary information required by Rule 17a-5 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in my audit of the basic financial statements and, in my opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Richard Prinzi, Jr. CPA February 25, 2003

## **Balance Sheet**

December 31, 2002

#### **Assets**

Current Assets:	
Cash Clearing Deposit Other Receivables Prepaid Expenses	\$ 2,242 15,000 8,543 1,650
Total Current Assets	27,435
Fixed Assets Accumulated Depreciation	29,025 (23,709)
Net Book Value	5,316
Total Assets	\$ 32,751
Liabilities And Members' Equity	
Current Liabilities:	
Accounts Payable Commission Payable Accrued Expenses	\$ 6,266 7,644 2,662
Total Current Liabilities	16,572
Total Liabilities	16,572
Members' Equity:	
Members Equity Current Income (Loss)	36,662 (20,483)
Total Members' Equity	16,179
Total Liabilities and Members' Equity	\$ 32,751

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

## **Statement of Operations**

For the Year Ended December 31, 2002

Income:	
Commission Income	\$ 43,145
Insurance Income	118,603
Mutual Fund Income	
	162,098
Interest	877
Other	1,094
Total Income	325,817
Expenses:	
Commissions	267,697
Clearing Costs	7,505
Customer Chares	570
Communications	3,289
Occupancy	21,176
Insurance	3,662
Quote Services	2,777
Regulatory & Membership	3,994
Professional Services	15,230
Depreciation	4,711
Interest	341
General & Administrative	15,350
Total Expenses	346,300
Loss	\$ (20,483)
2000	Ψ (20,400)

## Statement of Changes in Members' Equity

For the Year Ended December 31, 2002

	Total		
Members' Equity January 1, 2002	\$	24,862	
Year Current Income (Loss)		(20,483)	
Additions		11,800	
Withdrawals		0	
Members' Equity December 31, 2002	\$	16,179	

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

## **Statement of Cash Flows**

## For the Year Ended December 31, 2002

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1,616
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See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

#### **NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

#### **NOTE 1. ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS**

Ashton Clayton Financial Group, LLC ("the Company") is registered as a broker-dealer with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and is a member of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD"). Its business will focus on serving the needs of individual investors who seek specialized advice and recommendations based on their own individual needs and interest. Management has elected a December 31 year-end for the Company.

The Company recommends investment strategies and executes trades on behalf of clients. Customer accounts are maintained at Fiserv Correspondent Services, Inc. The Company has an agreement with Fiserv Correspondent Services, Inc. to execute and clear trades on behalf of the Company, therefore, the Company is exempt from SEC rule 15c3-3.

#### NOTE 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Cash & Cash Equivalents

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash equivalents include all highly liquid investments, with a maturity of three months or less.

#### **Utilization of Estimates**

The presentation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### **Basis of Financial Statements**

These financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America.

#### **Property Plant & Equipment**

Property plant & equipment are carried at cost less accumulated depreciation computed by the straight-line and accelerated methods. The estimated useful life to the various classes of assets on which current provisions were based is as follows: Furniture & Fixtures, 7 years; Equipment, 5 years; and Computers, 5 Years.

# Ashton Clayton Financial Group, LLC NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **NOTE 3. FIXED ASSETS**

A summary of fixed assets is as follows:

Furniture & Fixtures	\$ 17,430
Equipment	5,425
Computers	6,170
Total Fixed Assets	29,025
Accumulated Depreciation	(23,709)
Net Book Value	\$ 5,316

#### NOTE 4. RENT

The Company rents office space at 408 Rahway Ave, Woodbridge, NJ. The lease renews at the mutual consent of the landlord and the Company at a 5% increase per year. The monthly rent for 2002 was raised from \$1,570 in May 1, 2002 to \$1,650 from June 1, 2002 to year-end.

#### **NOTE 5. NET CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS**

As a SEC registered broker-dealer and a NASD member firm, the Company is subject to the SEC's Uniform Net Capital Rule (the "Rule"), which requires the maintenance of minimum net capital and requires that the ratio of aggregate indebtedness to net capital, both as defined, shall not exceed 15 to 1.

As of December 31, 2002, the Company had net capital of \$8,913 which was \$3,913 in excess of required net capital of \$5,000. The Company's net capital ratio was 1.86 to 1.



# **Computation of Net Capital**

December 31, 2002

# Net Capital:

Total Ownership Equity qualified for Net Capital	\$ 16,179
Less: Non-allowable Assets	 6,966
Total Net Capital	9,213
Haircuts	300
Net Capital	8,913
Minimum Dollar Requirement	 5,000
Excess Net Capital	\$3,913
Aggregate Indebtedness:	
Aggregate indebtedness as included in Statement of Financial Condition	\$ 16,572
Ratio of aggregate indebtedness to Net Capital	 1.86 to 1
Reconciliation:	
Net Capital as per the December 31, 2002 Unaudited FOCUS Report, as filed	\$ 8,913
Net Adjustments	 0
Net Capital as per the December 31, 2002 Audited Report, as filed	\$ 8,913

# Richard Prinzi, Jr. CPA

#### Staten Island Office:

## Brooklyn Office:

#### Manhattan Office:

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75 Maiden Lane New York, NY 10038 (212) 402-6864 \*\*By Appointment Only

Ashton Clayton Financial Group 408 Rahway Ave Woodbrodge, NJ 07095 February 28, 2003

In planning and performing my audit of the financial statements and supplemental schedules of Ashton-Clayton Financial Group, LLC. (the "Company"), for the years ended December 31, 2002, and 2001 I considered its internal controls, including control activities for safeguarding securities, in order to determine my auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing my opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on internal control.

Also, as required by Rule 17a-5(g) (1) of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), I have made a study of the practices and procedures followed by the Company including tests of such practices and procedures that I considered relevant to the objectives stated in Rule 17a - 5 (g) in making the periodic computations of aggregate indebtedness (or aggregate debits) and net capital under Rule 17a-3(a) (11) and for determining compliance with the exemptive provisions of Rule 15c3-3. Because the Company does not carry customer securities, I did not review the practices and procedures followed by the Company in any of the following:

- 1. Making quarterly securities examinations, counts, verifications, and comparisons
- 2. Recordation of differences required by Rule 17a-13
- 3. Complying with the requirements for prompt payment for securities under Section 8 of Federal Reserve Regulation T of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

The management of the company is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal control and the practices and procedures referred to in the preceding paragraph. In fulfilling this responsibility estimates and judgments by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of controls and of the practices and procedures referred to in the preceding paragraph and to assess whether those practices and procedures can be expected to achieve the SEC's abovementioned objectives. Two of the objectives of internal controls and the practices and

procedures are to provide management with reasonable but not absolute assurance that assets for which the Company has responsibility are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition and that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Rule 17a-15(g) lists additional objectives of the practices and procedures listed in the preceding paragraph.

Because of inherent limitations in internal control or the practices and procedures referred to above, error or fraud may occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation of them to future periods is subject to the risk that they may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the effectiveness of their design and operation may deteriorate.

My consideration of internal control would not necessarily disclose all matters in internal control that might be material weaknesses under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of the specific internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that error or fraud in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. However, I noted no matters involving internal control, including control activities for safeguarding securities, that I consider to be material weaknesses as defined above.

I understand that practices and procedures that accomplish the objectives referred to in the second paragraph of this report are considered by the SEC to be adequate for its purposes in accordance with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and related regulations, and that practices and procedures that do not accomplish such objectives in all material respects indicate a material inadequacy for such purposes. Based on this understanding and my study, I believe that the Company's practices and procedures were adequate at December 31, 2002, to meet the SEC's objectives.

This report is intended solely for the information and use for the Board of Directors, management, the SEC and other regulatory agencies that rely on Rule 17a-5(g) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 in their regulation of registered brokers and dealers, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Richard Prinzi, Jr. CPA